

**In the Specification:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 2, after the heading "**SPILL-PROOF COLORING CONTAINER**", and before the heading "**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**", please replace the existing paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a continuation in part of co-pending application serial number 09/287,798 filed April 7, 1999, which was a continuation in part of co-pending application serial number 09/021,617 filed February 10, 1998 and since issued June 1, 1999 as US #5,908,057, which was a continuation of co-pending application serial number 08/608,854 filed February 29, 1996 and since issued November 10, 1998 as US #5,832,969, which was a continuation-in-part of co-pending application serial number 08/086,541 filed July 1, 1993 and since issued March 5, 1996 as US #5,495,876, which was a continuation-in-part of co-pending application serial number 07/828,345 filed January 30, 1992 and since issued September 21, 1993 as US #5,246,046 and reissued March 9, 1999 as US #RE36,131. ~~The benefit of the filing date of this earlier filed application is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 120.~~ However, only the benefit of the filing date of April 7, 1999 of the 09/287,798 application is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 120.